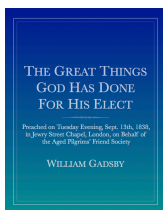


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

May 21st, 2017

“O taste and see that the
LORD is good: blessed
is the man that trusteth
in HIM.”

(PSALM 34:8)



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May 21st, 2017

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Morgan Stafford — 26th

This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR TODD NIBERT

1 SAMUEL 19:1-7 — THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

***Our featured sermon is made available every Sunday at 6:00 PM**

NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS!

GOD "...HATH SAVED US, AND CALLED US WITH AN HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN" (2 TIMOTHY 1:9)

The religion of Jesus Christ stands eminently distinguished, and essentially [and wholly different], from any other religion that was ever proposed to human reception, by this remarkable [distinction]: that, look abroad in the world, and you will find that every religion, except one, puts you upon doing something, in order to recommend yourself to God.

A [follower of Mohamed] expects to be saved by his works. A [Jehovah "false" Witness] thinks to go to heaven by his works. A [Roman Catholic] looks to be justified by his works. A Free-willer hopes for salvation by his works, compliances, endeavours, and perseverance. A Pagan, if he believes that there is a future state, expects to [go to heaven], by virtue of the supposed good he does, and of the evil he leaves undone. A [Buddhist] has the same hope, and stands on the same sad foundation. It is only the religion of Christ, which runs counter to all the rest, by affirming that *we are*

saved, and called with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to the Father's own purpose and grace, which was [not sold out to us on certain conditions, to be fulfilled by ourselves, but was] given us in Christ, before the world began [2 TIMOTHY 1:9]. It was long ago remarked by a good man, that "It is the business of all false religions to patch up a 'righteousness', in which the sinner is to stand before God." But it is the business of the glorious gospel to bring near to us, by the hand of the Holy Spirit, a righteousness ready wrought; a robe of perfection ready made; where in God's people, to all the purposes of justification and happiness, stand perfect and without fault before his throne [in love].

PASTOR AUGUSTUS TOPLADY (1740—1778)

"FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE"

"FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANYTHING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION; BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE"
(GALATIANS 5:6)

When faith and works are understood properly they are seen to be in perfect harmony. Paul in Romans 3 is dealing with the cause of salvation and in doing so utterly condemns the idea of any works having a part therein. *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight (ROMANS 3:20).* James, on the other hand, is dealing with the effect of salvation and in doing so he is adamant that the kind of faith which saves, also produces a love for and obedience to the law of God. *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works (JAMES 2:18).* I must not consider works in any form or degree to be the cause of my salvation lest I fall from the very grace of God (GALATIANS 5:4). I must not exclude works from the effect of my salvation or I have not understood the kind of faith which God gives His children. My children have a desire to please me; however, their obedience to me is not the cause of their relationship to me, it is the effect.

How we ought to rejoice in a faith which is given to us by God in pure grace and which produces in us, by the Spirit of Christ, much fruit (JOHN 15:8). May God give us all in abundance this faith which worketh [by love].

PASTOR CHRIS CUNNINGHAM

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them. — EPHESIANS 2:8-10

EXCEPT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS BE PERFECT

“FOR I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT EXCEPT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL EXCEED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YE SHALL IN NO CASE ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.” (MATTHEW 5:20)

Beloved, it is by the *doing* and *dying* of Christ that we are saved. Indeed, through the death of His sin atoning blood and the life of His perfect righteousness as our substitute, we are and **SHALL BE SAVED**. (MATTHEW 1:21)

It is not enough that you have your sins forgiven, in fact you must be made the perfect righteousness of God! Through Christ, through His perfect life as a man, our Heavenly Father *made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*.

All the Scribes, all the Popes, all the Buddhas, Mohamed and all who followed them—all needed a righteousness that exceeded there own to go to heaven; they needed the perfect righteousness of Christ. God give you grace to hear and believe His Son, for without His righteousness, no one comes to the Father, as our Lord plainly tells us *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (JOHN 14:6)

Beloved, it is by the *doing* and *dying* of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved—for *if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.*” (ROMANS 5:10)

To you who believe; rest with us, for we have received of the Lord's hand double! Not only do we have a full and complete forgiveness of all our sins; much more beloved, he has removed our iniquity from us and clothed us with His perfect life; indeed His perfect righteousness. **AMEN!** (GENESIS 3:21; ISAIAH 40:1-2, 54:17; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30)

PASTOR

...to you who are troubled rest with us, when the LORD JESUS shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not GOD, and that obey not the gospel of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. — 2 THESSALONIANS 1:7-8